

Developmental Disabilities Council
System Issues Workgroup
DRAFT MINUTES
September 20, 2007

Present: Leandro Razo (volunteered to act as Chair), Sherrie Brown, Harriette Bryant, Suzanne Gries, Carole McKae, Shannon Patton, George Walker.

Staff: David Maltman and Donna Patrick

Call to order/agenda/approval of minutes

As a courtesy to today's outside speaker, the Workgroup suspended approval of the minutes of the July 26, 2007 meeting and the approval of the agenda. Unfortunately, the Workgroup was unable to return to these items before adjourning. Action to approve the minutes for July 26 will be on the agenda at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the work group.

Title of agenda item:

The Home Care Quality Authority. Rick Hall, Executive Director of the HCQA, made a presentation on the organization's history, duties, and operation. In addition to the materials included documents listed in the Reading Cover Page, Rick distributed a chronology of the process to organize Individual Providers under collective bargaining and a chart on activities of the Home Care Registry that shows an increase in both the enrollment of new IPs and an increase in the number of consumers using the Registry. In August, 2007, there were a total of 1859 IPs registered with the Registry and 1906 consumers actively using the Registry to schedule IPs.

Task Force Members were particularly interested in the activities of the HB 2284 Long Term Care Task Force. Rick, one of the Co-Chairs of the Long Term Care Work Force Development Work Group explained that the legislatively convened group is responsible for making recommendations to the Joint Task Force on Long Term Care. The recommendations are limited to 3 specific areas:

- a) the appropriate number of basic training hours;
- b) content of a basic training curricula; and
- c) the development of criteria associated with certification of long term care workers.

A matter of concern for the System Issues Workgroup members is the broad definition of long term care workers in HB 2284 that includes parents who are paid providers. Currently, Parents who are paid providers must meet a 6 hour training requirement and they feel if additional hours of training are required it will discourage other parents and part time staff sometimes referred to as intermediate or casual employees from working as personal attendants or respite providers.

UJIMA, LLC: Our Council Member and member of this workgroup, was asked to make a presentation about the workforce issues she faces as a residential service provider. Harriette Bryan is the owner operator of UJIMA, LLC. She discussed recruitment, the needed set of skills that workers need to provide the kind of care delivered at UJIMA, the characteristics of her current employees, the legal requirements that must be met to be employed at UJIMA, the basic train received, employee turnover and staff retention issues, ongoing training and the impact of unionization on her workforce.

Members of the Workgroup commented on their alignment with the positive philosophy for the delivery of care, the surprising lack of work force issues that Harriette described, and the kind of training and ongoing support she was able to provide her employees. Unfortunately, time ran out near the end of Harriette's presentation which limited further discussion.

Council Report: Leandro gave the Work Group's report to the full Council during the business meeting on Friday. David filled in some details about the Workgroup's discussion. There were no recommendations or motions made to the full Council.

Next month's agenda: Several things remain for the Work Group as unfinished business. The minutes of the July meeting, an update on the Self Advocates in Leadership and Advocacy Partnership Projects, and a list of workforce issues to match the Workgroup's Goal for Workforce Development must be approved. At the next meeting, the Workgroup's membership will change and when the group is reformed the members will generate a work plan for the coming year and complete the Big Picture format.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.